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24 November 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*Congo: (Premier Adoula appears to be in serious trouble as a result of actions taken against his government by the Congolese parliament on 23 November.)

(On that date the lower house passed, reportedly by acclamation, a motion to free certain political prisoners and a resolution to lift the state of quasi-martial law which the government imposed on Leopoldville Province last week to intimidate the opposition.)

(Opponents of Adoula in the house are planning to call for a vote of censure early next week. The government's margin in both houses appears to be very slim for such a vote.)

(If Adoula is unable to shore up his parliamentary position before a censure motion comes to a vote, he is likely to prorogue parliament and try to rule by decree. President Kasavubu and army commander Mobutu would almost certainly support him, but such a move by Adoula might provoke violent popular demonstrations against him.)

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*USSR: The Soviet Central Committee, in its closing session on 23 November, approved a large number of high-level organizational changes and personnel promotions intended to implement Khrushchev's plan for more centralized control in day-to-day administration.

These shifts, the first of a series, seem chiefly intended to underscore the authority of the various party administrative bureaus being set up as part of the broad reorganizational scheme. In beginning to staff these bureaus, the party has announced that several of their chairmen will also be members of the party's top executive arm--the Secretariat--which has been expanded from eight to twelve members.

In this process some of the younger leaders have made substantial gains in their power positions. At the same time, however, by further proliferating responsibilities, Khrushchev may have cut into the strength of a few of his more senior deputies without formally changing their status.

Aleksandr Shelepin, former head of the secret police who was promoted to the Secretariat last year, seems to have profited most. Appointed a deputy premier and retaining his Secretariat post, he will head the new enforcement arm--the joint Committee of Party and State Control. He also will probably continue to have some supervisory responsibilities over the KGB.

Leonid Ilichev, also brought into the Secretariat in 1961, will head a newly formed Central Committee Commission for Ideological Affairs--a move which may infringe on Suslov's responsibilities. Party

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secretary Demichev will head a similar bureau for chemical and light industries.

The new bureau chiefs in the key areas of heavy industry, agriculture and personnel, however, are of lesser stature. All three have been brought up from the second level of the party apparatus, and although they are now party secretaries, it is likely that they will be essentially deputies to some of the more senior leaders.

Yuri Andropov, head of the department for liaison with other bloc parties, has also been made a secretary; Leonid Yefremov, party boss of Gorky, was promoted to candidate member of the party Presidium.

On the government side, Domitri Polyansky has been moved up to become another deputy premier and replaced as governmental chief in the RSFSR by Genady Voronov, one of Khrushchev's chief agricultural aides.

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Britain: (Conservative defeats in two of the five by-elections on 22 November reflect the electorate's continuing dissatisfaction with the Macmillan government rather than a trend toward the Labor Party.)

(Two seats were gained by Labor as a result of intervention by Liberal and independent candidates, and in four of the five constituencies Labor's share of the total vote was less than in the 1959 general election. The resurgent Liberal Party showed considerable strength in all contests.)

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(The Common Market issue was conspicuous in only one race, although it may have helped to cut down Conservative pluralities in three agricultural constituencies. Nevertheless, the Labor Party will claim that the results of these by-elections show that British public opinion is against entry into the EEC on the terms now being negotiated in Brussels.)

EEC-Turkey: (The Common Market (EEC) has reversed its generally negative attitude toward Turkey's three-year-old bid for association, and is preparing to initiate early negotiations.)

(According to a member of the EEC commission, Turkey's desperate economic situation and the reminder of its key strategic position during the Cuban crisis have influenced the EEC council to treat Turkey's application as a special case. It has accordingly directed the EEC commission to draft an action program, and to sound out the US attitude on the possibility of giving some Turkish exports preferential access to the Common Market during the early stages of association.)

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Iraq: The Kurdish revolt is entering its second winter, with the Iraqi Army no closer to crushing it than a year ago.

Army morale is declining. Under Prime Minister Qasim's orders, the army has resorted to systematic pillaging, to cutting off food supplies, and to other brutalities against the Kurdish population.

So far these tactics have tended to strengthen rather than undermine Kurdish determination, and rebel morale is reported high. The rebels can still easily carry out raids, like two they made earlier this fall, against oil installations in the plains of northern Iraq.

A number of tribes whose sheiks are neutral or progovernment have repudiated their leaders and joined the forces of rebel leader Barzani. Unless Qasim reaches some agreement with Barzani, the revolt is likely to spread next spring.

Qasim is attempting to excuse his failure to the Iraqi public by blaming the United States. He has accused "American imperialism" of trying to blow up the oil pipelines and of financing a "net of treachery and sabotage" in Iraq.

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